Motivation

Rising healthcare costs and the need to improve the delivery and quality of healthcare services to all citizens are driving the development of a nationwide healthcare system that will enable critical patient health information to be shared and exchanged among healthcare providers and facilities. Key to a nation-wide healthcare system is the adoption and use of compatible standards that enable healthcare systems to communicate and share vital health information.

To realize this vision, healthcare standards and the software tools and systems using them will need to work together and interoperate to ensure patient information is available when and where needed.

To support this vision, NIST with support from the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ), has developed the HealthCare Standards Landscape (HCSL or "Landscape") to promote healthcare standards awareness, adoption, and use by standards developers, software vendors, system integrators, end-user organizations, and other stakeholders.

What is HCSL?

The HCSL is a repository of healthcare standards information that is accessible over the Web, and enables stakeholders to publish and discover information about healthcare standards. The HCSL does not contain actual standards, but rather provides information about healthcare standards, organizations that develop, implement, or use these standards, links to where these standards may be found, and other related information.

How Can HCSL Help?

The HCSL provides a public resource for publishing, sharing and finding important information on healthcare standards that can promote awareness, understanding, adoption, use, and development of healthcare standards to support the emergence of open and interoperable healthcare systems nation-wide.

What Information Does HCSL Provide?

The HCSL repository contains information about healthcare:
- Documents - e.g. standards, reports, position papers, policy, rules, etc.
- Organizations – e.g. SDOs, consortia, policy-makers, users, etc.
- Portfolios – e.g. collections of standards, documents, etc, developed, adopted, or used by an organization.
- Relationships – make relationships between HCSL information.

What are Key HCSL Features?

Searching/Browsing - Anyone can use the HCSL to search for and view healthcare information using a web-browser. Several search methods are provided.

Registering - Anyone may register with the HCSL. Registered users have a login name and password, can join or create Groups, and can add and manage content within a Group or Subgroup.

Publishing and Managing Information
Registered users who are members of a Group may add (publish), update, delete and manage healthcare standards' information within the Group or Subgroup to which they belong.

Groups and Subgroups - Groups and Subgroups may be established as a hierarchy that reflects an organizational structure. Each Group or Subgroup may have its own members, administrator, and information content.

Relationships – Relationships may be made that express a logical association between HCSL information, e.g. a document *Is_Published_by* an organization. Relationships "connect" information and may be used to search for information in the HCSL.

Links to External Resources – HCSL supports links to other healthcare information resources external to HCSL.

About Us

The HealthCare Standards Landscape was developed under the Health Information Technology Program (eHealth) by the Software Diagnostics and Conformance Testing Division of the Information Technology Laboratory at NIST. For further information on the NIST eHealth program, please visit: http://www.itl.nist.gov/ehealth

The Software Diagnostics and Conformance Testing (SDCT) Division, is part of NIST's Information Technology Laboratory (ITL), which pursues measurements, standards, and technology to improve the quality, safety and cost-effectiveness of healthcare delivery systems and processes. For further information about NIST or SDCT, please visit: http://www.nist.gov or http://www.itl.nist.gov

For further information on the NIST HealthCare Standards Landscape project, please visit: http://www.itl.nist.gov/div897docs/hc_roadmap.html

To access the HealthCare Standards Landscape web site, please visit: http://www.nist.gov/hcsl

---

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

Contact Information

Tom Rhodes
Project Leader
(301) 975–3295
trhodes@nist.gov

Lynne Rosenthal
Manager
(301) 975–3353
lrosenthal@nist.gov

Mailing Address:
100 Bureau Drive Stop 8970
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8970 USA

The HCSL system is developed by NIST, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, with support from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. For further information on these agencies, please visit: http://www.nist.gov and http://healthit.ahrq.gov/

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

Health Care Standards Landscape

The NIST HealthCare Standards Landscape (HCSL) is a Web-accessible system that:

- Enables publishing and discovering information about healthcare standards, organizations, and related standards' information.

- Promotes awareness, development, coordination, adoption, and use of compatible healthcare standards and tools by standards developers, vendors, integrators, end-users and other healthcare stakeholders.